



Transit Advisory Board  
Thursday, September 12, 2019  
Alvarado Transit Center – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
100 1<sup>st</sup> St. SW  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

**Members Present**

Israel Chavez, Chair (car); Brendan Miller, (car); Vice Chair (car); Rachel Hertzman, (car); William Moore, (walked); Harris Balkin, (via phone); Patricia Salisbury (car & bus); Christopher Ramirez, (walked); Steve Pilon, (walked & bus); Jacqueline Smith, Para-TAB, Chairperson (car)

**Members Absent - Excused**

Kathy Foster and Orville Pratt

**Staff Members Present**

Santiago Chavez, Chief of Staff (car); Stephanie Dominguez, Deputy Director (car); Keith Breitbach, Marketing Coordinator, (car); Dan Majewski, Marketing and Communications Consultant (car); Rita Chavez, Executive Assistant; (car)

**Visitors Present**

Peter Rice, Downtown Albuquerque News (bike); Jeff Miles, Citizen, (walked); Luis Colunga, Together for Brothers, (walked)

**Call to Order**

Israel Chavez, Chair called the meeting to order at 4:02pm.

**Approval of Agenda**

Israel Chavez, Chair, asked for a Motion to approve the September 12, 2019 agenda as presented. Patricia Salisbury made a motion to accept the agenda. Christopher Ramirez, 2<sup>nd</sup> the Motion. Motion approved unanimously, 7-0 by Transit Advisory Board (TAB) Members.

**Approval of Minutes**

Israel Chavez, Chair asked for a Motion to approve the August 8, 2019 minutes as presented. Christopher Ramirez made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Patricia Salisbury, 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion approved unanimously, 7-0 by Transit Advisory Board (TAB) Members.

**Public Comment** – Reminder there is a 2 minute limit on Public Comment

No Public Comments

**Jeff Miles, Citizen Bus Rider**

Mr. Miles had a concern regarding the monthly bus pass he purchased. The pass was purchased mid-month and was not valid for 30 days. Mr. Miles pass was being rejected before the 30 days expiration. He would like to know why the bus pass was not good for 30 days from the date of purchase. After some investigating it was found that the system auto stamps the passes, which are valid for 31 days from date of purchase. Mr. Miles was made aware of this and was informed that if he had further issues to get in contact with transit.

## **Stay in Your Lane Presentation, Keith Breitbach**

The goal for the Stay in Your Lane campaign is to keep everyone safe by preventing crashes between buses and other road users. This campaign is essential to the success of ART and the future of transit in ABQ.

The drivers are now in training. They are out on the road in the AM and PM for training. One hundred and fifty drivers have been trained so far and there are currently 200 drivers.

Transit would like to deliver simple messages to road users on a variety of media platforms. i.e.

- Billboards and digital on-line ads (300,000 impressions so far)
- Facebook and Instagram (The site blew up once info was posted on Stay in Your Lane)
- ART Website [www.art505.com](http://www.art505.com), which is linked to the Transit website (400 visits a week) and 90% are coming from smartphones
- Stay in Your Lane flyers (15,000) that are in the shape of a blue yield sign are being distributed and an additional 30,000 have been ordered.
- 114 Johnny Boards - Being placed in business and in restaurant bathrooms along the ART corridor
- Bus Tails - 10 buses have signs on the rear of the bus
- Billboards - 5 around the city
- Message Boards - Along the ART corridor were used for about 2 weeks (very costly to use)
- City Parking Garages – They are handing out Stay in Your Lane signs to roughly 1000 drivers per day
- Posting Stay in Your Lane signs on Cars along the ART corridor
- Albuquerque Journal – Front Page Article about Stay in Your Lane
- Eight local news stations did a story about the Stay in Your Lane campaign

Transit is in collaboration with APD's traffic units. APD is not currently giving out citations along the ART corridor. They are only issuing warnings and along with the warnings they are handing out Stay in Your Lane signs. We know the citations will begin being issued once ART service starts. The cost of a citations will be cost \$80.

Transit is working with CNM and UNM transportation departments, activity offices, SUB and bookstore to get the Stay in Your Lane messages out.

What is next for ART in the coming year? Transit will continue to push the Stay in Your Lane campaign when ART launches. Transit will push ridership for ART once up and running.

### **TAB Member questions:**

Brendan Miller – Brendan has concerns about cars making U-turns, cars parking in ART bus lane and when cars are waiting to make a turn. He is concerned about driver and rider safety. He feels that installing more pin curbs might be a good idea. *Transit is looking into installing more pin curbs for this reason.*

William Moore – Are any ART buses currently running? He does not see any on Central and he lives on Central. *There are ART buses currently running on Central twice a day for driver training. During the State Fair buses are only out once a day.*

Steve Pilon – Can temporary plastic pylons or pin curbs be installed until traffic turning issues can be addressed? *Transit is looking into several options and is working with an engineer to make recommendations on how to correct this problem effectively and efficiently.*

Rachel Hertzman – Are there any numbers on how many warning citations have been issued so far? *No, we do not have any numbers from APD.* Ms. Hertzman believes that the white double lines are confusing to drivers and feels they should be yellow double lines to make more of an impact. *Most traffic lines on the road are universal and have meanings. There is no consideration at this time to change colors on traffic lines.*

TAB Member questions (Cont.):

Christopher Ramirez – Has there been any outreach to the cyclists regarding the road safety along the ART corridor? *Yes, APD is conducting the outreach, they are out giving warnings and letting all road users know what the laws are regarding ART but nothing specifically targeted to cyclists. The Stay in Your Lane campaign is for drivers, pedestrians, cyclist, skateboard, scooters, etc. We want everyone to be safe. Transit could ask to make a presentation to the City Cycling Board. Will cyclists be given citations same as drivers and will the of the citation be the same cost \$80? Do not know the answer to that question, but will get the answer to TAB Members.*

Patricia Salisbury – She has concerns about pedestrians who use the ART lane as a cross walk. There are bus stops where there are no cross walks and people getting off a bus walk across the street to transfer to another bus and stands in the ART lane while waiting. *We hope that people will use their best judgement and transit is looking into all the crosswalks and safety concerns.*

Harris Balkin – He would like to see more APD officers along the ART corridor and enforcing the law. *APD is currently on the corridor giving out warning citations. Transit cannot dictate to APD how to handle the ART corridor. Will the public see any more advertising on ART in addition to what transit is currently doing? No, the main focus was stated previously.*

Israel Chavez – Some of the signs along the corridor are confusing, how will the light signs be addressed? *Transit is aware that the light signs can be confusing so transit is in the process of labeling the signs so that they are easily understood. If Transit gets complaints regarding ART, transit should invite those people to attend a TAB meeting so they can be heard on the record. May be this could help them get better educated and give them an avenue to express their feelings. TAB Members would like to be ambassadors for transit at all times.*

**SAFETY IS THE MAIN CONCERN FOR THE STAY IN YOUR LANE CAMPAIGN.**

TAB Members thanked Keith and Dan for the Stay in Your Lane Presentation.

**TAB Chairperson Report – Israel Chavez**

No Report

**Director's Report- Stephanie Dominguez, Deputy Director**

The ridership for August was 873,552 which is down by .74% as compared to last August. Overall ridership is down 1.95% from last year. We were able to address Mr. Miles's concerns.

**Director's Report – Santiago Chavez, Interim Transit Director**

Transit is budgeted for 278 Motor Coach Operators (MCO), bus drivers. Transit has a shortage of drivers and is currently down 77 drivers, which puts a strain on the department. Drivers are being pulled for ART bus training twice a day, they are being used to drive for State Fair and Balloon Fiesta, which adds additional pressure on the department. On Thursday August 29<sup>th</sup> the Transit Department held a Job Fair at City Hall from 11:30am to 3:00pm specific to drivers. At the Job Fair candidates were given information regarding the MCO job duties, salaries and benefits, applicants received help on completing applications, they were interviewed on the spot and job offers were made to 38 candidates. These applicants will be going to orientation and will be began working as MCO's within the next few weeks. Normally the hiring process takes 54 days to complete. This was a fast turnaround and the background investigations took the most time to complete. Transit will participate in other City of Albuquerque Job Fairs, mostly concentrating on MCO operators.

Regarding the concern about white double lines in the ART lanes. The white double lines means traffic flows in the same direction and the yellow lines denote traffic is going the opposite direction. Street lights will be clearly marked above the signals for ART buses only. Ultimately it is all about safety.

### **TAB Member Questions:**

Christopher Ramirez – Can TAB Members get a report that shows ridership by routes? *Santiago will see if we can provide a report like this to the TAB Members by next meeting.*

Patricia Salisbury – There were some issues with the historical preservation along the ART corridor and some platforms do not have a canopy. Do we know if all platforms will have a canopy? *Yes, all platforms will have a canopy and the ones that do not have one will receive one. They will be within the historical preservation guidelines.*

Rachel Hertzman – Does Transit have a report on revenues from the fare box? *\$3.5 million in fare box revenue, the Transit Department operating budget is \$54 million, which would be about 6% of the operating budget. Can we get a report of the week day total ridership fares? Transit will check into this and see if it is possible.*

Mike Pilon – Do we know why Albuquerque ridership is down? Other cities such as, Phoenix, Portland, Seattle and Vancouver, BC have an increase in ridership. *A large contributor to low ridership are gas prices, when gas prices are low we tend to see a decline in ridership. The cities mentioned are urban and have a much greater condensed population compared to Albuquerque where our population is very mobile. A large portion of our population drives regularly.*

William Moore – What will it cost to ride an ART bus? *Same bus fares all around. How long will it take ART buses to reach the stops? The goal is to have the buses reach a stop every 7 to 7.5 minutes.*

Chris Ramirez - The San Pedro ART platform does not currently have an infrastructure and do we know when one be going up? *Santiago will get the timelines for this ART platform to TAB Members.*

### **New Business**

Patricia Salisbury – Presentation regarding the bus service on the Menaul Route #8 and Routes 36 & 37

1. The #8 (Menaul) must remain on the same route every day and not change route on the weekends as it currently does. Every weekday #8 stops at 12<sup>th</sup> and Indian School Rd. NW. At that location is Lowes, Job Corps, Walgreens Holiday Inn Express, The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Starbucks, Laguna Burger, McDonalds, and the Native American High School. This stop also provides a transfer opportunity for routes #36 and #37. Currently a transfer to #36 is not possible on Saturday and #37 does not operate on the weekend. (#36 does not run on Sunday either). Currently only one bus (#36) runs once every hour and stops at 12<sup>th</sup> and Indian School Road NW on Saturday. This problem could be significant (but not completely resolved) if the #8 Menaul bus would not change route on the weekend. What would completely resolve the issue of little or no bus service in the North Valley would be for the #36, #37, and #5 to run every day on the same route allowing city resident's reliable city transit service every day without current weekend route and schedule changes.
2. The #36 bus needs to go back to its original route prior to May 2019 when #37 began operating. #36 use to head east on Lomas with a stop in front of Metro Court then south on 2<sup>nd</sup> at with stops in front of the Convention Center and a stop at Civic Plaza. Transfers from #36 too many and other routes could be easily made. When the D-Ride was eliminated and #37 began, #36 changed its route and instead of going from Lomas to 2<sup>nd</sup> St. south, #36 now goes from Lomas to 6<sup>th</sup> St. south making it extremely inconvenient to make transfers and connections to other buses or to reach the Convention Center or Civic Plaza without walking a long distance or riding all the way to the ATC. I recommend that the #36 return to its prior route which was extremely helpful in making connections and stopping in front of the Convention Center and Civic Plaza.

Patricia would like the TAB Members to endorse these recommendations so they can be forwarded to the Transit Department and City Council for approval and implementation.

### **New Business (Cont.)**

Patricia Salisbury – Presentation regarding the bus service on the Menaul Route #8 and Routes 36 & 37

After a lengthy discussion it was decided that the TAB Members would allow time for the Transit Department to look into both of these recommendations. If TAB is not satisfied they can write a letter explaining their concerns to the Transit Department and City Officials. TAB Members would like to invite a Transit planner to speak at the next TAB meeting.

### **Unfinished Business**

Freedom 4<sup>th</sup> Ridership – This year there were 9,364 riders which is down as compared to 12,878 riders from last year.

Town Hall – A Youth and Transit Town Hall will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2019 from 10:30am to 12noon at the Cesar Chavez Community Center located at 7505 Kathryn SE, Albuquerque, NM. This event will be interactive, intergenerational and art based. If you take the bus, bike, have no ride to work, stuck at home, or have to drive across town for errands we want to hear from these community members. Snacks will be provided.

Transit Study – Santiago has been talking with other cities such as El Paso and Tucson to see how they conducted their study and what professional company did they use. He should get information soon. The RFP will be coming up soon but the point will be community engagement and community input. It is moving forward and it will take some time. TAB Members would like to have an update on this at the next meeting.

Israel Chavez – All other unfinished business will be tabled until next meeting.

**Public Comment** – Reminder there is a 2 minute limit on Public Comment

No comments

### **Announcements**

The Para Transit Advisory Board next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am to 12:00pm at the ATC, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

### **Adjournment**

The TAB meeting was adjourned at 5:32pm by Israel Chavez, Chair.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, October 10, 2019; 4:00 PM at the ATC-2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**